

### The 'Standardized' alphabet used by Frank Braham.

This *first pass* at compiling Frank Braham's 'Standardized' alphabet has been constructed, where possible, from individual letters found on the Perfinned 'inter-pane' gutters which bear a *manuscript number in ink*. The alphabet is generally 4.5mm high and characterised by a tendency for pointed C's, G's, O's and a pointed Q.

Some of the letters may be found with more than one variation, for example, there is a 10-pin "S" represented as well as an 11-pin version, and the "W" can have 13, 14 or 15 pins. Also, the 12-pin "R", although not known on a 'numbered' piece, can be found on two 'un-numbered' gutter pieces. {See examples illustrated below}. Two versions of "&C<sup>o</sup>" have also been shown, an earlier close-spaced version (Type I), as well as a slightly later, wider-spaced variety (Type II), introduced a little later, say c1887.



H7825.01



H4440.03a



F3320.01



P0280.01



J6550.01



R0535.01



B6430.01



G4730.01



W1895.01

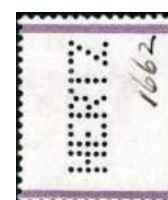


W6050.01



W3210.01

The only occurrence of "E" and "Z" amongst the 'numbered' gutter pieces is in "HERTZ", which has been squeezed to fit the stamp, rendering all the letters a little squashed and so 'untypical'. The "E" shown in the reconstructed alphabet has been taken from "CE/C<sup>o</sup>" (C2325.01), and the "Z" from "OZO" (O2210.01).



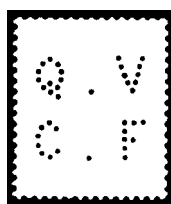
H2340.02



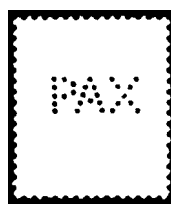
C2325.01



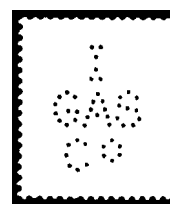
O2210.01



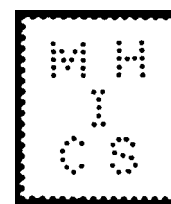
Q0560.01



P0290.01



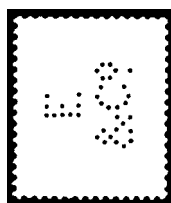
I1080.01



M2996.01

The two remaining letters “Q” and “X”, which do not figure in the ‘Braham Proofs’, can be accounted for using the “Q” from “Q.V/C.F” (Q0560.01), and the “X” from “PAX” (P0290.01). Two different non-standard serif I’s come from “I/GAS/C” (I1080.01), which is 4pins high, and a 5-pin high variety seen in “MH/I/CS” (M2966.01) {Note: “P/M<sup>c</sup>I” (P3095.01), “W&S/I” (W6910.02), and “W/McI” (W5230.01) also show the 5-pin high variety}.

### “&C<sup>o</sup>” dies with a Stop.



E0785.01



N0150.01

Although dies with a stop under the “o” of “&C<sup>o</sup>” are *not* encountered in *any* of the **119** Braham ‘Proofs’, one such die does appear on a Frank Braham Advertisement. The die used on the advertisement matches “E/&C<sup>o</sup>.” (E0785.01), and is somewhat similar to the early, close-spaced variety of “&C<sup>o</sup>” seen on many of the Braham ‘Proofs’.

As a result we have another characteristic to search for. A wide “N” has also been found as can be seen in “N/A V L” (N0150.01).

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	H	I	I	I	J	K	L	M
N	N	O	P	P	Q	R	R	S	S	T	U	V	W	W	W
X	Y	Z	&	C <sup>o</sup>	&C <sup>o</sup>	&C <sup>o</sup>	&C <sup>o</sup>	&C <sup>o</sup>	LP	LP	LP	LP	LP	LP	LP

Note that *half* of this alphabet can be seen used in part of one of Frank Braham’s letterheads!

## PERFORATING PRESS MAKER

Armed with this re-constructed alphabet, a search has been undertaken, using the ‘New Illustrated catalogue of G.B. Perfins’, to find and record Perfins with similar characteristics. To date, another **1,085** Perfins have been added to the original list of **130** making a total of **1,215**. This figure amounts to around **5%** of the **24,132** G.B. Perfins overall and **10%** of the **12,027** dies known from the **1881-1905** working period of Frank Braham (under his own name). It should be noted that **12,027** dies represents **49.8%** of all known G.B. Perfin dies!

There are, however, many more yet to be recognised! These figures show that Frank Braham, with almost **10%** of the market, was a significant competitor to Joseph Sloper. Yet to be added to these figures are the Braham dies with larger letters, so the overall total may well exceed **1,250**. With a working period of **25 years**, it’s reasonable to expect to encounter a few minor variations in the shape of the individual letters he used.

**Observed Characteristics of the ‘Standardized’ alphabet (based on the ‘Proofs’).**

- The ampersand is normally a 12-pin type IIIa, with the top often slightly asymmetric about a vertical axis. {1,727 GB Perfins have a 12-pin type IIIa “&”, at least 668 of which can be attributed to Frank Braham}.
- Die configuration is overwhelmingly single headed, with just *Eleven* exceptions:  
     “BIRK/BECK” (B3700.03M), “C&B/SOHO” (C0960.02M),  
     “CI/&C<sup>o</sup>L<sup>d</sup>” (C3680.01M), “CWD” (C8400.01M), “E.O/L<sup>d</sup>/A.C” (E3370.01M),  
     “HP/&C<sup>o</sup>” (H5750.04M), “N.C/C.L” (N0600.01M),  
     “R.S/&J” (R4770.01M), “RTS” (R5340.01M), “ST/&S” (S7550.01M),  
     and “W/M<sup>c</sup>L” (W5240.01M)..
- The “o” in “C<sup>o</sup>” *always* has 6 pins.
- In general, single letter Perfins do not seem to exist, all have at least two letters.
- Inverted, reversed, and inverted-reversed orientations are **not** found. The last point is worthy of note as this excerpt from an early advertisement shows.

This is now entirely avoided. Attention is drawn to the fact that all Stamps are delivered in sheets as issued from Somerset House, Perforated perfectly one way, not reversed or in pieces.

**‘Added’ Letter and ‘Company’ Pair.**

Two ‘Braham’ dies are known where the “&C<sup>o</sup>” portion has been added to an existing die, and another where an extra letter has been added below. There is an added bonus in that one of the added ‘C<sup>o</sup>’ dies (G5520.01) is known on an un-numbered inter-pane piece showing the ‘Jubilee’ lines.



1888-1890	1890-1905	1883-1887	1887-1912	1885-1890	1890-1905
G5500.03	G5520.01	H0095.01	H0110.01	I2680.01	I2670.01

	PS Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	User
1	G5500.03	GWD	1888-1890	Ø G W Dawes (& Co), Stock & Share Brokers, 5 Lothbury, London EC.
	G5520.01	GWD/&C <sup>o</sup>	1890-1905	
2	H0095.01	HAA	1883-1887	Hyam A Abraham & Sons, Fancy Goods Warehousemen, London EC. Significance of the “S” is unknown.
	H0110.01	HAA/S	1887-1912	
3	I2670.01	IWC/&C <sup>o</sup>	1890-1905	I W Caley (& Co), Undertakers, Norwich Shawl Warehouse, Norwich.
	I2680.01	IWC/N	1885-1890	

Note - Although not illustrated here “WMP/&C<sup>o</sup>” (W5420.01) in use from c1895 by *W M Paterson & Co Ltd*, Warehousemen, London EC, had the “&C<sup>o</sup>” portion removed to leave “WMP” (W5410.01), which continued in use until c1906.

**‘Limited’ Pairs.**

There are a number of “L<sup>d</sup>” and “L<sup>td</sup>” varieties, none of which appear on ‘numbered’ gutter pieces, but can be found on ‘un-numbered’ pieces. The most interesting of these are the ‘Limited Pairs’ in which an original die has been altered to include “L<sup>d</sup>” or “L<sup>td</sup>”. Due to lack of space, the “L” is *usually* only 4 pins high. The following list details all of the known ‘Braham’ so-called ‘Limited Pairs’, although not all have an actual pair!

	PS Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	User
1	C7215.01	CS/&S	c1895	Ø Charles Stanley & Son (Ltd), Soap Mfrs, Wath-on-Dearne, Yorks.
	C7290.03	CS/&S/L <sup>d</sup>	c1895	
2	E3530.01	EPM/C <sup>o</sup>	1890-1897	Eastman Photographic Materials Co (Ltd), London.
	E3540.01	EPM/C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1897-1899	
3	???	FS/WC <sup>o</sup>	???	Ø The Fore Street Warehouse Co (Ltd), Warehousemen, 104/107 Fore St, London EC.
	F3980.01	FS/WC <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1883-1886	
4	F4370.01	FW/&C <sup>o</sup>	1883-1898	Ø Frederick Warren & Co (Ltd), Coal merchants, New Broad St, London EC.
	F4410.01a	FW/&C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1898-1904	
5	???	GSH/&L	???	User as yet unknown - Dulwich, London SE postmarks.
	G4640.01	GSH/&L/L <sup>d</sup>	1895-1910	
6	???	H/&C <sup>o</sup>	???	Two Users: Holland & Co Ltd, London SE. Humber & Co Ltd, London EC.
	H1610.01	H/&C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1895-1908	
7	H3250.01a	HH/&C <sup>o</sup>	1895-1904	User as yet unknown - London EC postmarks.
	H3310.02	HH/&C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1904-1905	
8	H4880.03	H&M	1895-1900	Ø Haslam & Makovski (Ltd), Corn Importers, Old Corn Exchange, London EC.
	H5107.02	H&M/L <sup>d</sup>	1900-1905	
9	H5555.02	HOS/&C <sup>o</sup>	1895-1901	Ø H O Serpell & Co (Ltd), Biscuit Mfrs, Reading.
	H5565.01	HOS/&C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1901-1906	
10	???	IS/&C <sup>o</sup>	???	I Salaman & Co Ltd, Ostrich Feather Merchants, 7 Falcon St, and 44-47 Monkwell St, London EC.
	I2320.01	IS/&C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1895-1915	
11	J1390.01	JC/&C <sup>o</sup>	1885-1892	Ø John Connell & Co (Ltd), Australian Merchants, Dunster House, 12 Mark Lane, London EC.
	J1430.01	JC/&C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1892-1910	
12	J3870.01	JHS/&C <sup>o</sup>	1885-1900	User as yet unknown - Kennington, London SE postmarks.
	J3872.01	JHS/&C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	c1903	
13	J6630.01	JR/&S	1885-1900	User as yet unknown - Birmingham postmarks.
	J6680.01	JR/&S/L <sup>td</sup>	???	
14	J8310.01	JWB	1883-1898	Ø J W Benson (Ltd), Watch & Clock Makers, 62/64 Ludgate Hill, London EC.
	J8340.02	JWB/L <sup>d</sup>	1898-1902	
15	L4890.10	L&S	1890-1894	Lilley & Skinner Ltd, Boot & Shoe Manufacturers, Paddington Green, London W.
	L5090.01	L&S/L <sup>d</sup>	1894-1905	
16	R1370.01	RD/&C <sup>o</sup>	1895-1900	User as yet unknown - Cardiff postmarks.
	R1390.02	RD/&C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1900-1906	
17	R2373.01	RHH/&S	1890-1900	Ø R Hood, Haggie & Son (Ltd), Hemp & Wire Rope Mfrs, 11 Queen St, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
	R2375.01	RHH/&S/L <sup>d</sup>	1900-1910	
18	R5690.01A	RW/&C <sup>o</sup>	1882-1900	Ridley, Whitley & Co (Ltd), Linoleum & Flooring Mfrs, 46/47 Newgate St, London EC.
	R5717.01v	RW/&C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	c1900	
19	S0647.03	S.B/&C <sup>o</sup>	c1895	Singleton, Benda & Co (Ltd), Japanese Merchants, London EC.
	S0695.01	S.B/&C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1895-1905	

	PS Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	User
20	S3635.01	SHW/&C <sup>o</sup>	1890-1900	S H Ward & Co (Ltd), Brewers, Sheaf Brewery, Sheffield.
	S3640.01	SHW/&C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1900-1901	
21	S3865.01	SIR/JB	1885-1895	Ø Sir Jacob Behrens & Sons (Ltd), Stuff Merchants, 35-37 Noble St, London EC.
	S3870.01	SIR/JB/L <sup>td</sup> .	1895-1920	
22	???	TW/&C <sup>o</sup>	???	User as yet unknown - No postmark evidence.
	T5025.01	TW/&C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1905-1910	
23	W2570.01	WF/BT	1895-1904	Willows, Francis, Butler & Thompson (Ltd), Wholesale Druggists, London EC.
	W2580.01a	WF/BT/L <sup>d</sup>	1904-1930	

Technically “SIR/JB” (S3865.01) and “SIR/JB/Ltd.” (S3870.01) shouldn’t be included because the “R” in the earlier die has 11 pins, and the later die has 12 pins, making them two quite separate dies.

c1895	c1895	1890-1897	1897-1899	???	1883-1886
C7215.01	C7290.03	E3530.01	E3540.01	???	F3980.01
1883-1898	1898-1904	???	1895-1910	???	1895-1908
F4370.01	F4410.01a	???	G4640.01	???	H1610.01
1895-1904	1904-1905	1895-1900	1900-1905	1895-1901	1901-1906
H3250.01a	H3310.02	H4880.03	H5107.02	H5555.02	H5565.01
???	1895-1915	1885-1892	1892-1910	1885-1900	c1904
???	I2320.01	J1390.01	J1430.01	J3870.01	J3872.01

1885-1900	???	1883-1898	1898-1902	1890-1894	1894-1905
J6630.01	J6680.01	J8310.01	J8340.02	L4890.10	L5090.01
1895-1900	1900-1906	1890-1900	1900-1910	1882-1900	c1900
R1370.01	R1390.02	R2373.01	R2375.01	R5690.01A	R5717.01v
c1895	1895-1905	1890-1900	1900-1901	1885-1895	1895-1920
S0647.03	S0695.01	S3635.01	S3640.01	S3865.01	S3870.01
	???	1905-1910	1895-1904	1904-1930	
	 TW&C° probably never existed.				
	???	T5025.01	W2570.01	W2580.01a	

**An unusual threesome.**

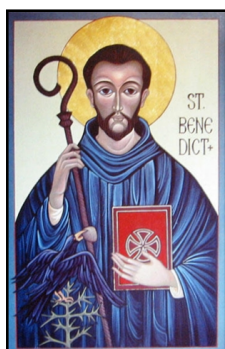
The following three are thought to be the same die, modified in the sequence suggested. With no user known, the only clue to a place-name is London EC on "WH/&S" (W3835.02).

1883-1887	1890-1895	1895-1900
W3885.01	W3875.01	W3835.02

### An Ecclesiastical Pair!

An interesting pair of Perfins ‘popped up’ which are likely to have been the work of Frank Braham in the shape of “**OSB**” (O1710.01), and “**PAX**” (P0290.01). They also have an ecclesiastical connection with each other, and both had replacement dies c1905, both probably by Frank Braham. All four Perfins have been illustrated for completion!

- Order of Saint **B**enedict, St Augustine’s Monastery, Ramsgate, Kent. {“**OSB**”}.
- St Augustine’s College, Ramsgate, Kent. {“**PAX**” from the Coat of Arms - see below}.



*Saint Benedict* was born in 480AD to ‘well-to-do’ parents in Nursia, a small town in central Italy. Although he enjoyed a wealthy Roman lifestyle, he rejected it and spent three years living alone as a hermit in a cave - a ‘troglodyte’. The story goes that he accepted an invitation from a group of monks to become their Abbot. However, his strict approach did not find favour with the monks, so they tried to poison him. First they put poison in his chalice, but when Benedict blessed it, the vessel shattered. The monks then resorted to poisoning his bread, but when Benedict blessed it, a raven flew in and carried it off.

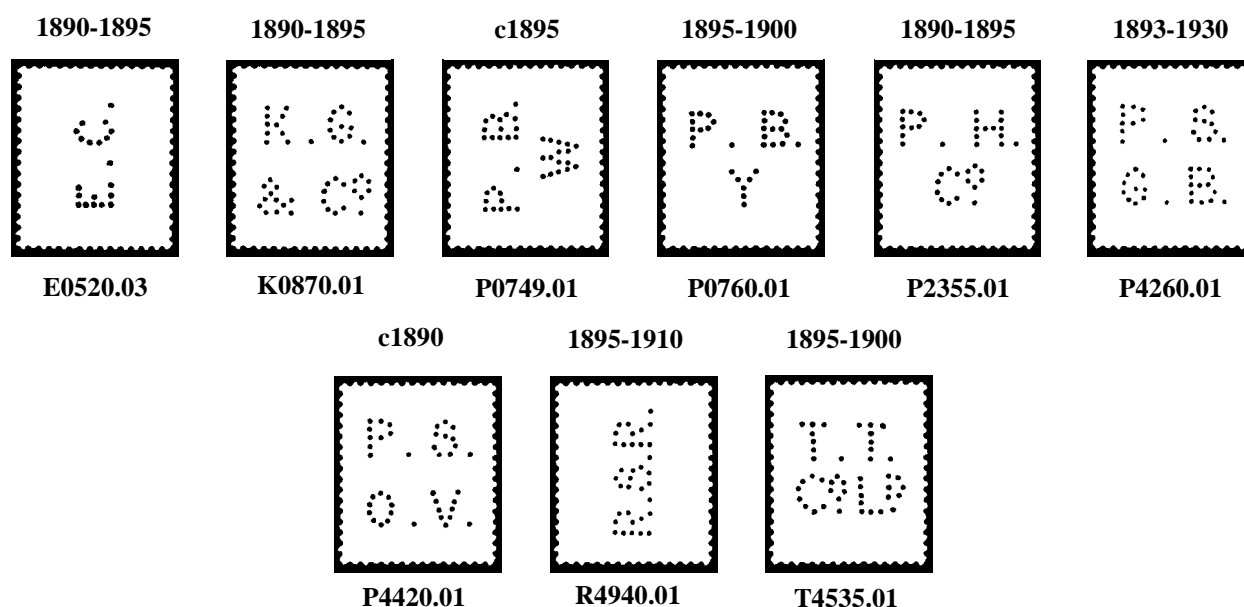
The monastery at Ramsgate dedicated to *St Augustine of Canterbury* was built 1860-1861 on a wind-swept, cliff-top site - the first Benedictine monastery to be built in England since the Reformation. It was designed by Edward Welby Pugin (1834-1875), son of the famous architect Augustus Pugin. The site was close to the spot where St Augustine reputedly made landfall in 597AD. The monastery became independent in 1876, a priory in 1881, then finally raised to the status of an abbey by Pope Pius IX in 1896. Modern update - the small community of monks still using the abbey moved to the Franciscan Friary at Chilworth (Surrey) in 2011.

*St Augustine’s College*, initially associated with the monastery, was originally a school run by the monks. It first opened in 1865, and eventually developed into a preparatory school (1881). However, in **1886** the preparatory school severed its connection with St Augustine’s, by now a priory, and became ‘independent’. The use of Perfins dates from this time - “**PAX**” (Latin for Peace) was taken from their Coat of Arms. After some initial success, falling student numbers and repeated Zepellin raids on the town of Ramsgate during the Great War rendered the school’s position untenable, and St Augustine’s College closed in July **1917**. The College did re-open after the war but never used Perfins.

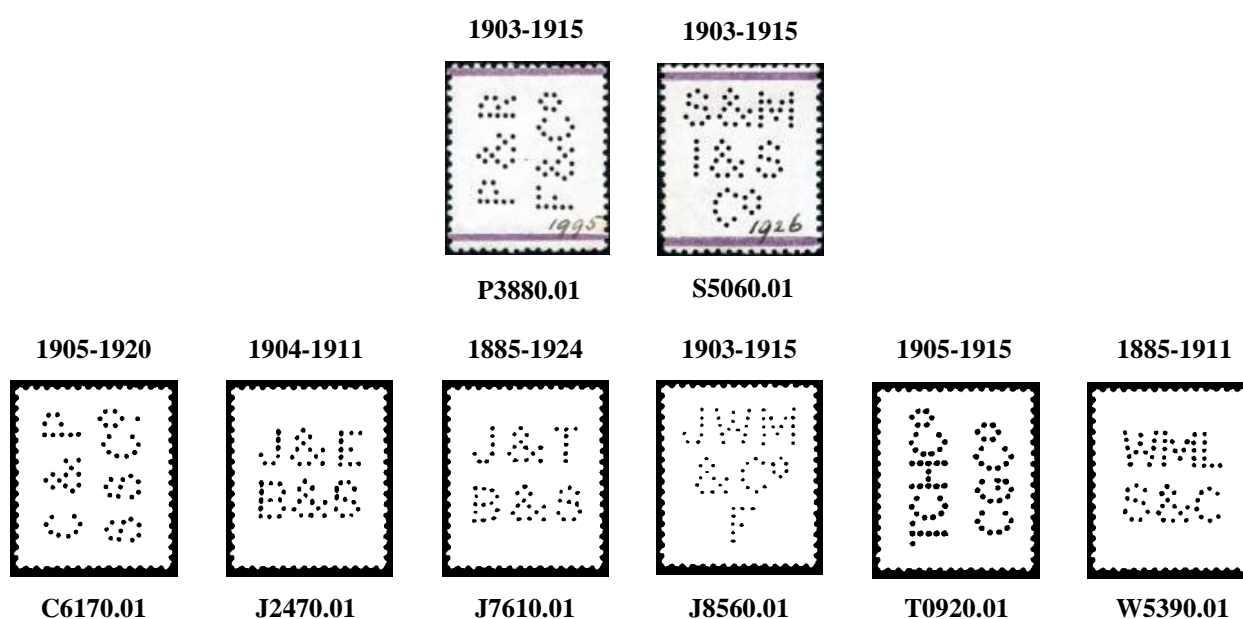


**Pulling out all the stops - well, not really, but keen on putting them in!**

A number of possible Braham dies show a preponderance for including stops! These examples generally show wide-spaced letters, each followed by a stop.

**'5-Letter' Format.**

The Bristol 'thinly disguised' advertisement concocted by Frank Braham's father, Lewis Braham, in 1883 mentions 'perforated stamps'... 'with *five* initials, free of all cost'... If "Co" and "Ld" count as 'one letter', then virtually all of Frank Braham's suspected dies fall into that category. Two exceptions with 'Braham' numbers are shown below, along with a selection of others from the general listing.





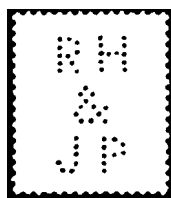
Of particular interest is the *5-letter* layout, characterised by a central character in the centre of the stamp. The first two (shown below) are directly related to Braham in the form of an existing 'Proof', and an appearance on a Braham requisition form, the rest have been taken from the list of Braham dies.

1895-1930



R1430.01

1890-1900



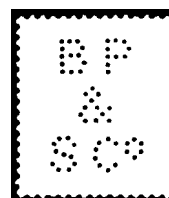
R2390.01

1883-1910



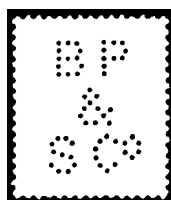
A0890.01

1894-1900



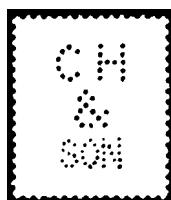
B5890.01

1890-1894



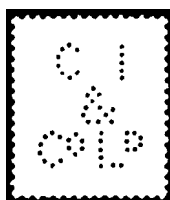
B5890.01a

1895-1900



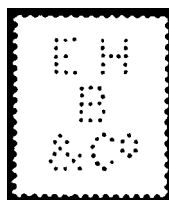
C3380.01

1905-1952



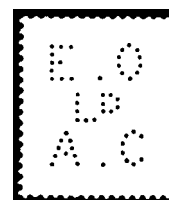
C3680.01M

1895-1910



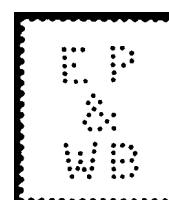
E1900.01

1903-1930



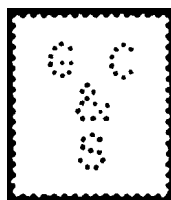
E3370.01M

1883-1890



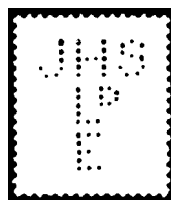
E3660.02

1895-1912



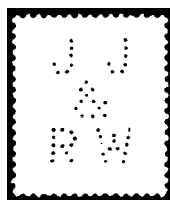
G1135.01

1905-1915



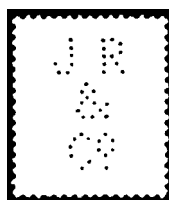
J3877.01

1890-1895



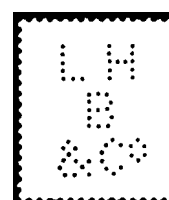
J4432.01

1895-1928



J6480.01a

1890-1895



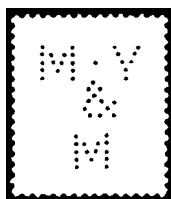
L2820.01

1890-1895



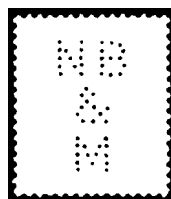
M2966.01

1895-1939



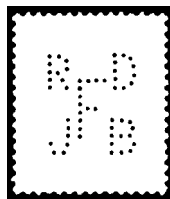
M6250.01

1880-1901



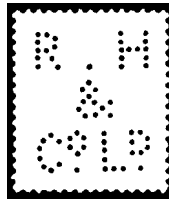
N0390.01

1895-1930



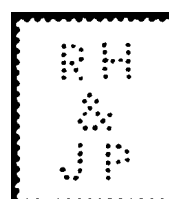
R1430.01

1900-1905



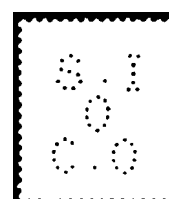
R2350.01

1890-1900



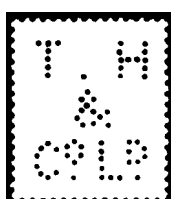
R2390.01

1905-1910



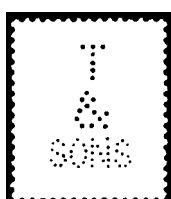
S3850.01

c1900



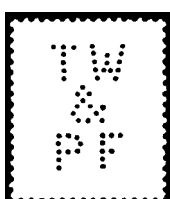
T2157.01

1895-1901



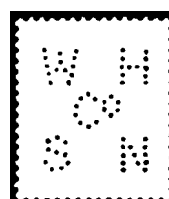
T4220.02

c1890



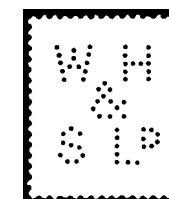
T5143.01

1885-1895



W3565.01

1905-1930



W3870.01

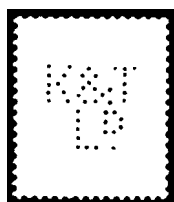
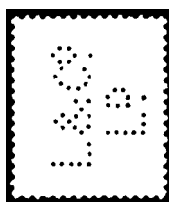
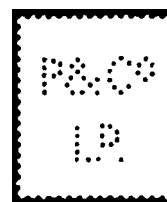
c1885



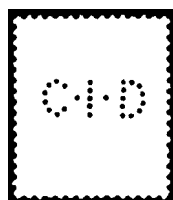
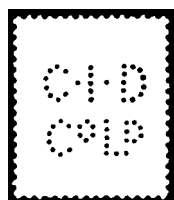
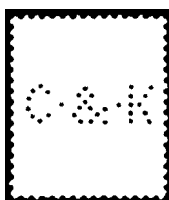
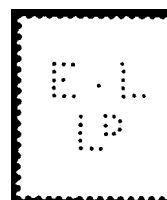
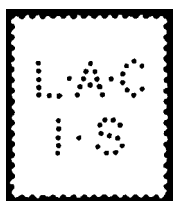
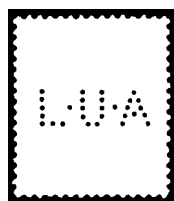
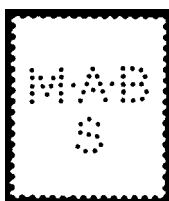
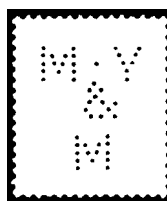
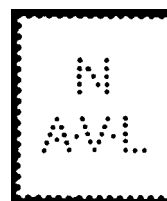
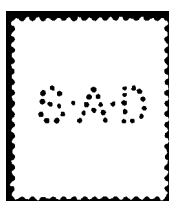
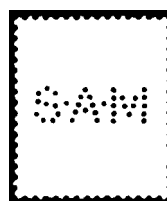
Y0700.01

**Abbreviated 'Limited' - L<sup>d</sup>.**

Four examples of "L<sup>d</sup>" with a stop are thought to be the product of Frank Braham, one of which is known as an un-numbered 'Proof' - "P&C<sup>o</sup>/L<sup>d</sup>." (P1165.01). However, the first two show a taller "L" and "d" to those shown in the 'Proof' and could conceivably be the work of some other manufacturer.

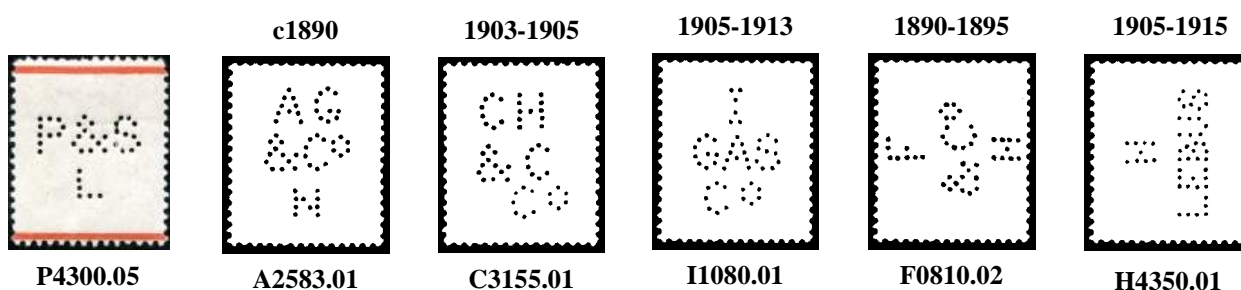
**P1165.01****1895-1912****K1720.01****1882-1890****L1285.01****1890-1915****M2940.01****1890-1910****P1165.01****Raised Stops.**

Although not exclusively the domain of Frank Braham, there is a comparatively large number of examples with his 'Standardized Alphabet' showing the phenomenon of a 'raised' stop. Fortunately, one example is represented in the 'Braham Proofs', "E·L/L<sup>d</sup>" (E2700.02).

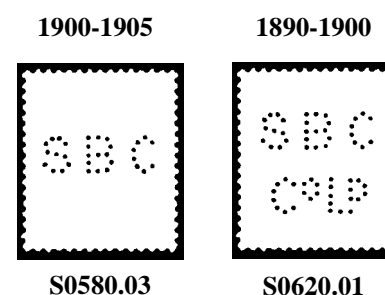
**E2700.02****c1890****C3690.01****1895-1900****C3695.01****1890-1922****C4135.01****1900-1905****E1785.01****1890-1900****E2700.02****1895-1905****J2075.01****1895-1897****L0070.01****c1890****L5545.01****1890-1915****M0110.01****1895-1939****M6250.01****c1890****N0150.01****c1895****S0160.01****1888-1901****S0180.01****1895-1912****S0285.01**

**Shortened Letters.**

A short “L” appears in the “L<sup>d</sup>” of the ‘Limited Pairs’ looked at in detail previously, and elsewhere {e.g. in the ‘Proof’ of “P&S/L” (P4300.05)}, but there is also a short “N”, two examples of a stubby “C<sup>o</sup>”, and two short examples of “H”.

**Removal of “C<sup>o</sup>L<sup>d</sup>”.**

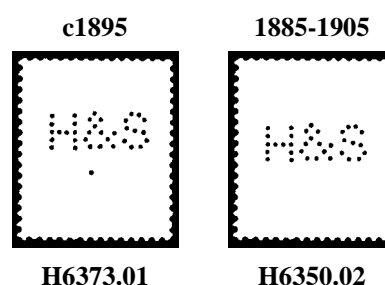
Similar to the ‘Limited Pairs’, but in reverse, there is one example of the apparent *removal* of “C<sup>o</sup>L<sup>d</sup>” from an existing die. Although neither die has as yet been identified with a particular user, there seems to be no connection from a postmark point of view, so presumably a simple re-use for another customer of an obsolete die.



	PS Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	User
1	S0580.03	SBC	1900-1905	User unknown - London E, and London EC postmarks.
	S0620.01	SBC/C <sup>o</sup> L <sup>d</sup>	1890-1900	User unknown - Newcastle-on-Tyne postmarks.

**A ‘Mystery’ stop!**

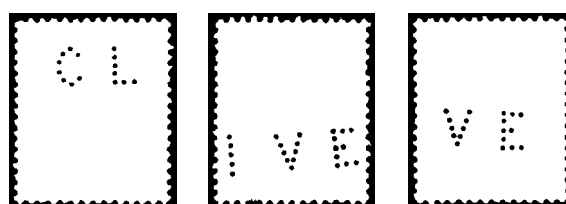
One suspected ‘Braham’ die is known with a single stop underneath the top line, perhaps the vestige of a larger die. The die in question is “H&S/.” (H6373.01), which appears to match “H&S” (H6350.02). The problem is that the ‘stop’ variety occurs halfway through the use of “H&S” (H6350.02). Although closely matched, the dies are probably not identical. Despite a thorough search for a matching larger die, no such die has yet been found.



	PS Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	User
1	H6350.02	H&S	1885-1905	Hurst & Son, Seed Merchants, 152 Houndsditch, London E.
	H6373.01	H&S/.	c1895	User unknown - postmarks London EC.

**Carpet Die.**

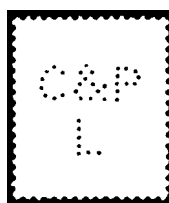
Although by no means proven, the 'Carpet Die' "CLIVE" (C4522.01), may well have been made by Frank Braham. It is known used 1895-1920 almost certainly by *W B Clive & Co*, Educational Booksellers, 13A Holywell St, Strand, London WC. Certainly the five letters involved show all the hallmarks of those used by Frank Braham. The full strike can be seen on the KEVII 2½d joined pair above, although on single stamps only part of it will ever be seen as the examples below show.

**Modified Letter.**

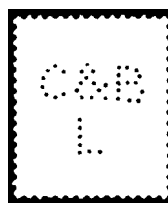
A fair number of Braham dies were modified by either the addition or removal of letter(s), e.g. the 'Limited' pairs, but just one die is known where one letter has been altered to become another.

1890-1895

1900-1905



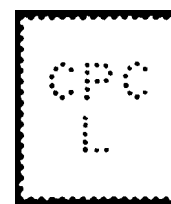
C6050.03



C0840.02

The original die, "C&P/L" (C6050.03) is thought to have been used by *Cort & Paul*, Hardware Merchants, Ironmongers, Seed & Oil Merchants, Market Place, *Leicester*, 1890-1895. The "P" was modified c1900 to form a crude "B", and used in this state in London based on (T)abernacl(e St), London EC postmarks. This change from a Leicester user to one in London points to the possibility that the die was not an external machine owned by the user, but used by Frank Braham on his own premises to perforate stamps to be sent out to the customer by post, or in the latter case, probably collected by hand.

1895-1905

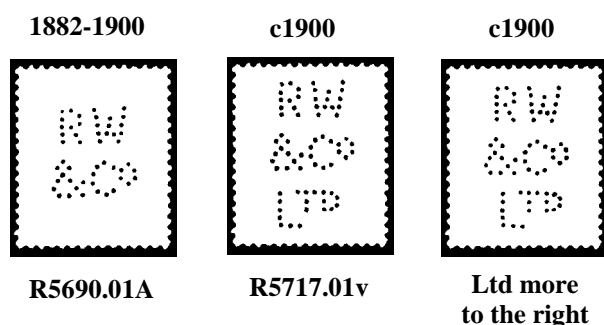


C5905.01

Note - A change in partnership c1895 from *Cort & Paul* to *Cort, Paul & Cornick* {Hardware Merchants, Ironmongers, Seed & Oil Merchants, Market Place, Leicester} necessitated a new die, "CPC/L" (C5905.01), again probably the work of Frank Braham.

**Variable?**

Included in the general list is “RW/∫C<sup>o</sup>/L<sup>td</sup>” (R5717.01v). The suffix ‘v’ points to some ‘variability’ in the Perfin, in this case it’s the position of the “Ld” portion with respect to the rest of the letters. The upper two lines “RW/∫C<sup>o</sup>” are constant and may be found on their own as R5690.01A. As to whether or not the version with the added “Ld” is truly variable may never be ascertained simply because only two stamps have been reported, both QV 1d Lilacs (16 dots). All three perfins mentioned are illustrated below for reference.



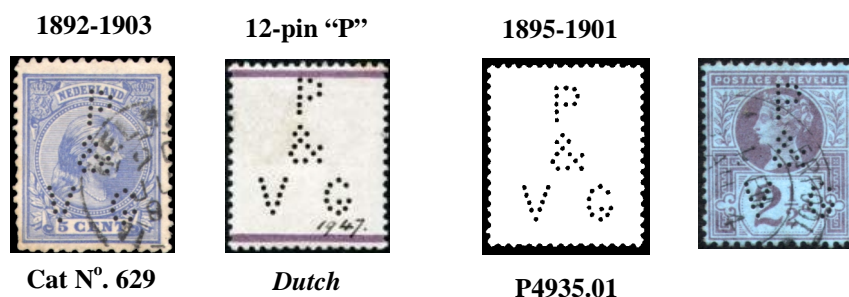
The user of “RW/∫C<sup>o</sup>” (R5690.01A) has been positively identified as **Ridley, Whitley & Co**, Linoleum & Flooring Mfrs, 46/47 Newgate St, London EC. Ridley, Whitley & Co Ltd were registered in 1900, with a receiver being appointed in 1915.

**Foreign.**

Once the stamp perforation technique had been proven in Great Britain, Postal Authorities in other countries followed suit and allowed security perforation of their postage stamps and the like. For example:

1872	Belgium.	1881	New Zealand.
1875	Netherlands.	1887	Canada.
1878	Denmark, France, and Germany.	1908	United States of America.

If we exclude Braham’s foray with ‘Barclay & Fry’ and his offer to perforate stamps for the ‘Shanghai Local Post’ during 1892/3, we have just one other ‘Foreign’ possibility.



Braham ‘Proof’ N°. 1947 is clearly not a match for the GB Perfin “P/∫/VG” (P4935.01), shown to the right, but it is a good fit with a Dutch Perfin - see example above postmarked Helm(ond). The user of the Dutch Perfin was **Prinzen & van Glabbeek**, Margarine Mfrs, Binderseind K 4, Helmond, Nederland, so in all probability the G.B. Perfin was used by **Prinzen & van Glabbeek**, Margarine Mfrs, Liverpool, and London SE. The factory in Helmond closed down in 1905, with production being transferred to Simon van den Bergh.

**The Earliest 'Braham' Dies.**

We know from the 1881 census that Frank Braham (aged 22) was a *Perforating Press Maker employing 2 workmen*, so it's highly likely that he started his business sometime in 1880. Perhaps he was apprenticed into engineering or more likely, simply used his family's business accumen (and possibly financial backing) to sieze an opportunity. Whatever the motivation we can look for signs of his activity in surviving Perfins with dates in the early 1880's.

From the list of possible 'Braham' dies using the Standardized alphabet, only twenty examples can be found whose die in use date range starts at 1880 or 1881. Significant is the fact that over 70% are **London** based companies, along with two from Frank Braham's home town of **Bristol**! The earliest *actual dates* are from 1882 - see lower table for details.

	PS Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	User
1	A0705.01	A/B <sup>k</sup>	c1881	User unknown - No postmark evidence.
2	A0710.02	AB/L	1881-1882	Ø Ash Bros Ltd, Woollen Mfrs & Merchants, Leeds.
3	D4430.02	DSC/L	1880-1905	The Dairy Supply Co Ltd, London WC.
4	F3350.01	FP/&S	1882-1905	Faudel, Phillips & Sons, Warehousemen, London EC.
5	L2620.03	LGT	c1881	User unknown - postmarks London.
6	L4810.01	LR/O	1881-1885	Lloyd's Register of British & Foreign Shipping, London EC.
7	L4970.01	LS/C	1881-1905	Leaf, Sons & Co, London EC.
8	M0185.01	M.A.C/Y	c1881	Ø M A Craven & Son, Mfg Confectioners, York.
9	M0520.01	MB/&C <sup>o</sup>	1881-1905	User unknown - postmarks Gracechurch St, London EC.
10	M3150.01	M.I.S	1881-1890	Ø M Isaacs & Son, Fruit Brokers, London EC, and Hull.
11	M4420.03	M&P	1880-1881	User unknown - postmarks 'NPB'.
12	M4990.03	M&S	1880-1905	Marshall & Snelgrove Ltd, London W.
13	N0390.01	NB/&M	1880-1901	North British & Mercantile Insurance Co Ltd, London EC.
14	N1280.01	NEW/&C <sup>o</sup>	1880-1895	Ø D New & Co, Machine Tool Mfrs, London EC.
15	N3060.01	NS/&N	1880-1915	Newman, Smith & Newman, Warehousemen, London EC.
16	P3375.01	PN/&C <sup>o</sup>	1881-1885	User unknown - postmarks Leeds.
17	R3805.01	RO/&C <sup>o</sup>	1880-1886	Ø Robert Owtram & Co, Warehousemen, London EC.
18	R5680.01	R&W	1880-1895	User unknown - postmarks London Chief Office.
19	T1860.02	T&G/B	c1881	Ø Trapnell & Gane, <b>Bristol</b> .
20	V1630.04	VS/&C <sup>o</sup>	1880-1900	User unknown - postmarks London.
21	W1520.01A	WC/&S	1881-1895	User unknown - postmarks <b>Bristol</b> .
22	W8050.01	WW/&H	1881-1905	User unknown - postmarks London EC.

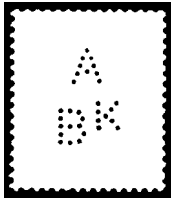
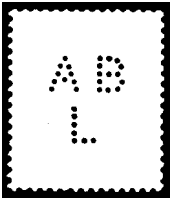
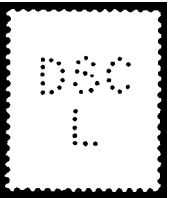
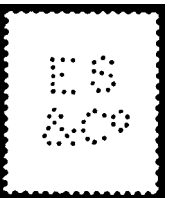
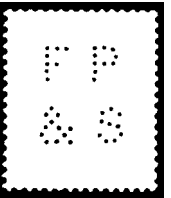
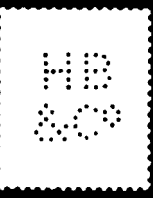
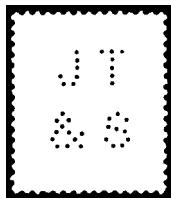
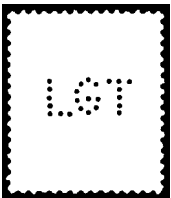
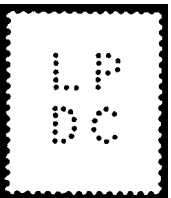
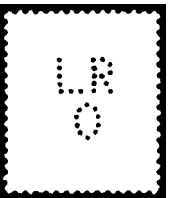
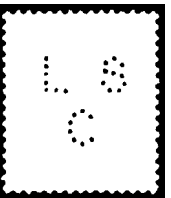

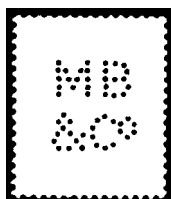
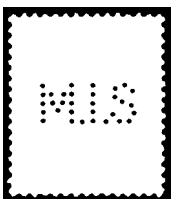
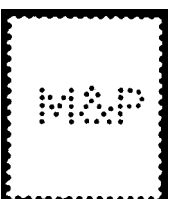
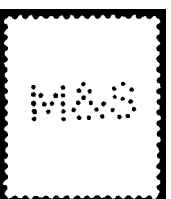
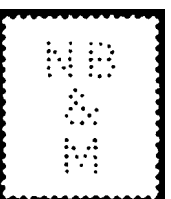
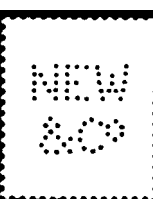
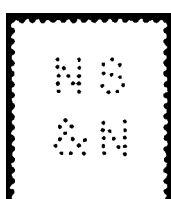
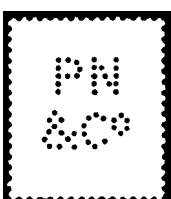
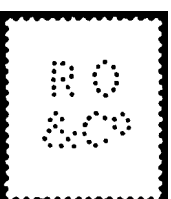
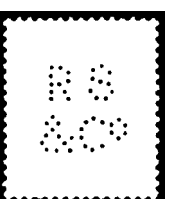
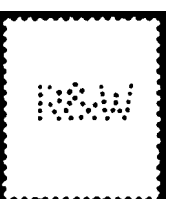
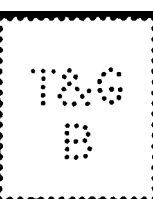

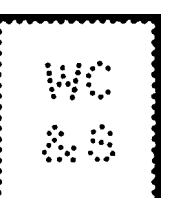
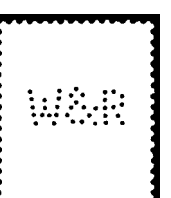
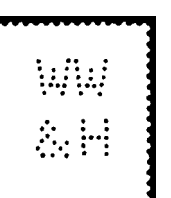
	PS Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	Earliest recorded date
1	E4253.01	ES/&C <sup>o</sup>	1882-1904	23-Jun-82
2	F3350.01	FP/&S	1882-1905	21-Dec-82
3	H0530.01	HB/&C <sup>o</sup>	1882-1920	17-Nov-82
4	J7910.01a	JT/&S	1882-1930	<b>19-Jun-82</b>
5	L4475.03	LP/DC	c1882	31-Aug-82
6	L4970.01	LS/C	1881-1905	18-Aug-82
7	R3805.01	RO/&C <sup>o</sup>	1880-1886	29-Aug-82
8	R4640.01	RS/&C <sup>o</sup>	1882-1936	1882
9	W6240.09	W&R	c1882	Sep-82

And finally, just two examples are known on the **QV 14-dot 1d Lilac**, which was issued in July 1881 and replaced by the 16-dot variety in the December of 1881.

"M.A.C/Y" (M0185.01) used in York, and "WC/&S" (W1520.01A) used in **Bristol**.

**Illustrations of the 'Earliest' Braham Dies.**

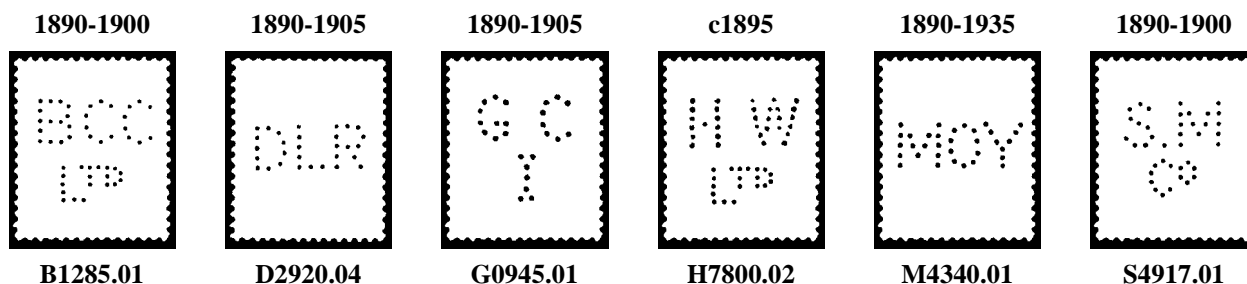
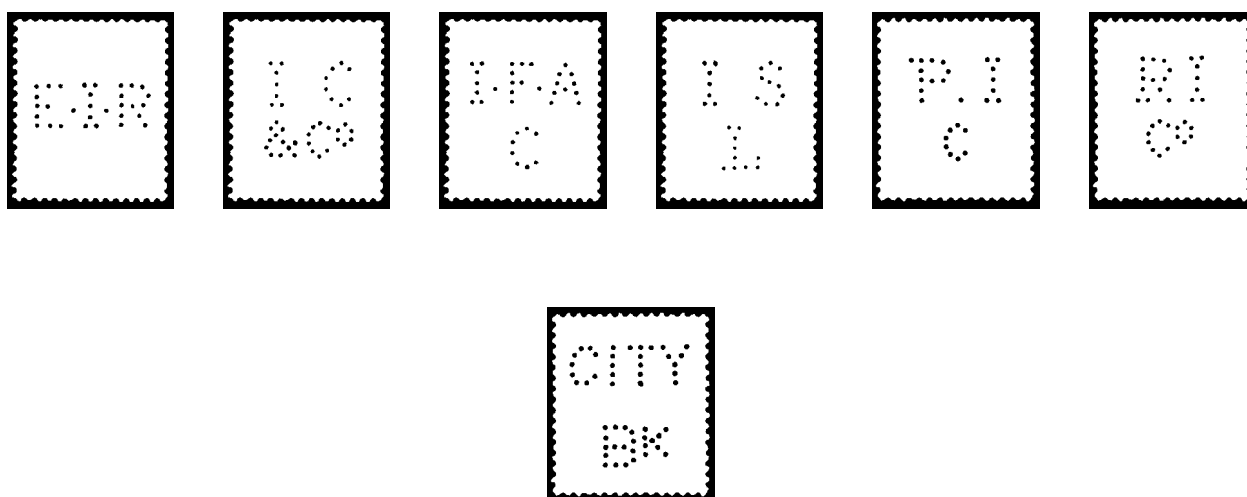
Unfortunately, none of these early dies figure in the 'Acle' hoard.

c1881	1881-1882	1880-1905	1882-1904	1882-1905	1882-1920
					
A0705.01	A0710.02	D4430.02	E4253.01	F3350.01	H0530.01
1882-1930	c1881	c1882	1881-1885	1881-1905	c1881
					
J7910.01a	L2620.03	L4475.03	L4810.01	L4970.01	M0185.01
1881-1905	1881-1890	1880-1881	1880-1905	1880-1901	1880-1895
					
M0520.01	M3150.01	M4420.03	M4990.03	N0390.01	N1280.01
1880-1915	1881-1885	1880-1886	1882-1936	1880-1895	c1881
					
N3060.01	P3375.01	R3805.01	R4640.01	R5680.01	T1860.02
	1880-1900	1881-1895	c1882	1881-1905	
					
	V1630.04	W1520.01A	W6240.09	W8050.01	



**Larger Letters.**

There are a number of gutter pieces with much *larger* letters, and another group of *mixed* height lettering, all of which can be found on both 'numbered' and 'un-numbered' gutter pieces. These will be looked at in detail now that the search for examples of the 'Standardized' alphabet has been completed. Six 'Large' examples are shown below.

**Characteristic 'Serif' "T" - More examples from known G.B. Perfins.**

**Note** - "CITY/BANK" (C3790.01) was a customer of Braham's, and Braham's bank probably right up until it went into liquidation in *1898*.

**Please Note!**

The Large Letter Alphabet will be re-constructed in due course, and a similar search undertaken using the 'New Illustrated catalogue of G.B. Perfins', to find and record Perfins with similar characteristics. In the finished work, the 'Mixed Letter' examples will be kept quite separate from the pure 'Large Letters'.

It is fully accepted that some of the dies currently included in the list of 'possible' Braham dies will, for good reason, be subsequently removed, and that others, also with good reason, will be added to the list. The current list of *1,215\** Perfin Dies using Braham's Standardized Alphabet (see separate files of die details and illustrations) is correct to *23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015*.

\* Includes the *51* dies found with a *13-pin Type Ia* ampersand, and *24* found with a *14-pin Type Ia* ampersand.